

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 117862
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY IO:GBHELMAN :MR:MVS

APPROVED BY P:DNEWSOM

S/S-): RCASTRODALE

NEA:HHSAUNDERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY SUVA

USINT BAGHDAD

S E C R E T STATE 117862

EXDIS, PARIS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES

E.O. 11652: GDS

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PAGE 02 STATE 117862

TAGS:PDIP, UNSC, LE, IS, XF

SUBJECT:ASSAULTS ON UN FORCES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

1. THIS MESSAGE DEVELOPS FOR ADDRESSEES OUR CURRENT
THINKING ON WHERE EFFORTS STAND IN IMPLEMENTING SC
RESOLUTION 425 ESTABLISHING UNIFIL. ADDRESSEES WILL

RECALL THAT THE PURPOSES OF 425 AND UNIFIL ARE THREE-FOLD: TO GAIN WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM LEBANON; TO MAINTAIN SECURITY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON; AND TO RE-ESTABLISH LEBANESE GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.

2. WITH RESPECT TO THE FIRST OBJECTIVE, ISRAELI FORCES HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM ALL BUT A SIX-MILE BELT IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. PRIME MINISTER BEGIN HAS ASSURED US THAT UPON HIS RETURN TO ISRAEL FROM THE UNITED STATES HE WOULD SEEK A SPECIFIC DATE FOR FINAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. IN VARIOUS CONVERSATIONS, THE ISRAELIS HAVE SPECULATED ON A VARIETY OF CONDITIONS TO THE IDF'S WITHDRAWAL, INCLUDING SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTIAN MILITIA AND MAINTENANCE OF THE GOOD FENCE. OUR POSITION ON THESE ISSUES IS:

-- WE CAN ACCEPT NO LINKAGE BETWEEN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND ANY OTHER CONDITION. FYI: ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT WANT TO GET OUT IN FRONT OF THE UN IN PUSHING FOR THE EARLIEST FEASIBLE WITHDRAWAL. END FYI.

--OUR EFFORTS WILL BE DIRECTED TO CONTINUING TO PRESS THE ISRAELIS TO WITHDRAW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE ASSUME THAT EMBASSY TEL AVIV WILL FOLLOW THROUGH ON COMMITMENT BEGIN GAVE TO SECRETARY THAT UPON RETURN TO ISRAEL HE WOULD SEEK- IN CONSULTATION WITH WEIZMAN, AND IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECRET

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UN-A DATE FOR FINAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL.

3. MAINTAINING THE SECURITY OF SOUTHERN LEBANON IS EXCLUSIVELY A QUESTION OF HOW TO CONTROL THE PALESTINIANS AND LEBANESE LEFTISTS THERE. THE PROBLEM COULD BECOME ESPECIALLY ACUTE IF THERE ARE PERSISTENT CLASHES WITH UNIFIL, OR FURTHER INFILTRATION BEHIND UNIFIL LINES AND SUBSEQUENT GUERRILLA ATTACKS AGAINST ISRAELI FORCES OR ISRAEL PROPER. ACCORDINGLY, OUR OBJECTIVE OVER THE NEAR TERM SHOULD BE TO GET ARAB GOVERNMENTS TO USE WHATEVER INFLUENCE THEY HAVE WITH THE PALESTINIANS TO CONTROL THE SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON. TO IMPLEMENT THIS OBJECTIVE:

A. AFTER RECEIVING USUN'S REPORT PER PARA B BELOW RE CO-ORDINATION, EMBASSIES CAIRO, DAMASCUS, KUWAIT, JIDDA SHOULD APPROACH THEIR GOVERNMENTS AT APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN AT CONTINUING THREATS TO UNIFIL FROM PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS. ASK THEM TO CONSIDER ALL APPROPRIATE MEANS TO ENSURE THAT THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE SC ARE RESPECTED AND THAT THE MANDATE OF UNIFIL IS NOT CHALLENGED. IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THERE ARE PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS WHICH HAVE REFUSED TO HONOR UNIFIL'S MANDATE AND ARE SEEKING TO CHALLENGE THAT MANDATE THROUGH THEIR

ACTIONS. WE DO NOT WISH TO SPECULATE ON THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES WHICH MIGHT FOLLOW ON CONTINUING CLASHES BETWEEN PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS AND UNIFIL, WITH RESULTING DEATHS ON BOTH SIDES. BUT SUCH EVENTS WOULD CERTAINLY TEND TO JUSTIFY TO THE ISRAELIS THEIR ORIGINAL SKEPTICISM REGARDING UNIFIL AND WOULD REDUCE THE DETERMINATION OF UNIFIL'S TROOP CONTRIBUTORS TO MAINTAIN CONTINGENTS IN LEBANON. HOWEVER MUCH INDIVIDUAL ARAB GOVERNMENTS DISASSOCIATE THEMSELVES FROM THE FORCES HOSTILE TO UNIFIL, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WILL REGARD PALESTINIAN ACTIONS AS ARAB ACTIONS. THIS WILL NOT HELP THE GENERAL ARAB CAUSE, ESPECIALLY WHEN UNSC RESOLUTIONS AND PEACEKEEPING FORCES ARE BEING CHALLENGED. WE URGE STRONGLY THAT ARAB GOVERNMENTS USE THEIR INFLUENCE WITH PALESTINIANS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH SC RESOLUTION SECRET

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425 AND UNIFIL'S MANDATE. IN CONTEXT FOREGOING YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT WE ARE PRESSING ISRAELIS TO ANNOUNCE IN NEAR FUTURE DATE FOR FINAL, TOTAL WITHDRAWAL.

B. FOR USUN: YOU SHOULD CONVOKE OTHER WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, PERHAPS INCLUDING ALL TROOP CONTRIBUTORS WITH THEM (OR APPROACHING THOSE TROOP CONTRIBUTORS SEPARATELY, WHICHEVER IN YOUR JUDGMENT WOULD BE BEST). YOU SHOULD REVIEW OUR THINKING AS CONTAINED IN FOREGOING PARAGRAPHS AND OUR PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION. YOU SHOULD URGE PARALLEL EFFORTS ON THE PART OF OTHERS. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT WE WILL BE PREPARED TO COORDINATE OUR APPROACHES IF THAT IS WHAT THEY PREFER. FURTHER, YOU MIGHT SUGGEST THAT THOSE GOVERNMENTS WHICH FEEL IN A POSITION TO DO SO MAKE PRESENTATIONS TO IRAQ AND LIBYA.

4. HOPEFULLY, FOREGOING EFFORT WILL SENSITIZE ARAB WORLD TO PROBLEM AS WE SEE IT. OVER THE MIDDLE TERM, HOWEVER, PROBABLY THE BEST AVAILABLE ANSWER TO THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IN SOUTH LEBANON IS LINKAGE OF THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCE TO UNIFIL SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LITANI LINE. PRESUMABLY, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MOVE TOWARDS THAT OBJECTIVE UNTIL ISRAEL FULLY WITHDRAWS FROM LEBANON. WE HAVE TRIED TO SET THE STAGE FOR THIS IN A SERIES OF TALKS IN DAMASCUS.

5. AS TO THE THIRD OBJECTIVE, RESTORATION OF LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY TO SOUTHERN LEBANON, THE ANSWER LIES IN PART IN CONTROLLING PALESTINIANS. OF COURSE, FUNDAMENTAL SOLUTION CAN ONLY BE FOUND IN THE CONTEXT OF A SOLUTION TO THE LEBANESE PROBLEM AS A WHOLE. NEVERTHELESS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO URGE THE INTRODUCTION SECRET

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ARMED FORCES, EVEN IF ONLY IN COMPANY STRENGTH. VANCE

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APPROVED BY IO:TBROWN

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S E C R E T STATE 117862

EXDIS

FOL RPT STATE 117862 ACTION BEIRUT CAIRO DAMASCUS JIDDA
KUWAIT PARIS TEL AVIV USUN NEW YORK INFO AMMAN BONN DAKAR
DUBLIN LAGOS LONDON MOSCOW STOCKHOLM TEHRAN SUVA BAGHDAD
9 MAY 78 QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 117862

EXDIS, PARIS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PDIP, UNSC, LE, IS, XF

SUBJECT: ASSAULTS ON UN FORCES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

1. THIS MESSAGE DEVELOPS FOR ADDRESSEES OUR CURRENT THINKING ON WHERE EFFORTS STAND IN IMPLEMENTING SC RESOLUTION 425 ESTABLISHING UNIFIL. ADDRESSEES WILL
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PAGE 02 STATE 117862

RECALL THAT THE PURPOSES OF 425 AND UNIFIL ARE THREE-FOLD: TO GAIN WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM LEBANON; TO MAINTAIN SECURITY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON; AND TO RE-ESTABLISH LEBANESE GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.

2. WITH RESPECT TO THE FIRST OBJECTIVE, ISRAELI FORCES HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM ALL BUT A SIX-MILE BELT IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. PRIME MINISTER BEGIN HAS ASSURED US THAT UPON HIS RETURN TO ISRAEL FROM THE UNITED STATES HE WOULD SEEK A SPECIFIC DATE FOR FINAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. IN VARIOUS CONVERSATIONS, THE ISRAELIS HAVE SPECULATED ON A VARIETY OF CONDITIONS TO THE IDF'S WITHDRAWAL, INCLUDING SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTIAN MILITIA AND MAINTENANCE OF THE GOOD FENCE. OUR POSITION ON THESE ISSUES IS:

-- WE CAN ACCEPT NO LINKAGE BETWEEN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND ANY OTHER CONDITION. FYI: ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT WANT TO GET OUT IN FRONT OF THE UN IN PUSHING FOR THE EARLIEST FEASIBLE WITHDRAWAL. END FYI.

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3. MAINTAINING THE SECURITY OF SOUTHERN LEBANON IS EXCLUSIVELY A QUESTION OF HOW TO CONTROL THE PALESTINIANS AND LEBANESE LEFTISTS THERE. THE PROBLEM COULD BECOME ESPECIALLY ACUTE IF THERE ARE PERSISTENT CLASHES WITH UNIFIL, OR FURTHER INFILTRATION BEHIND UNIFIL LINES AND SUBSEQUENT
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B. FOR USUN: YOU SHOULD CONVOKE OTHER WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, PERHAPS INCLUDING ALL TROOP CONTRIBUTORS WITH THEM (OR APPROACHING THOSE TROOP
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4. HOPEFULLY, FOREGOING EFFORT WILL SENSITIZE ARAB WORLD TO PROBLEM AS WE SEE IT. OVER THE MIDDLE TERM, HOWEVER, PROBABLY THE BEST AVAILABLE ANSWER TO THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IN SOUTH LEBANON IS LINKAGE OF THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCE TO UNIFIL SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LITANI LINE. PRESUMABLY, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MOVE

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FOL RPT STATE 117862 ACTION BEIRUT CAIRO DAMASCUS JIDDA
KUWAIT PARIS TEL AVIV USUN NEW YORK INFO AMMAN BONN DAKAR
DUBLIN LAGOS LONDON MOSCOW STOCKHOLM TEHRAN SUVA BAGHDAD
9 MAY 78 QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 117862

EXDIS, PARIS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PDIP, UNSC, LE, IS, XF

SUBJECT:ASSAULTS ON UN FORCES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON
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1. THIS MESSAGE DEVELOPS FOR ADDRESSEES OUR CURRENT THINKING ON WHERE EFFORTS STAND IN IMPLEMENTING SC RESOLUTION 425 ESTABLISHING UNIFIL. ADDRESSEES WILL RECALL THAT THE PURPOSES OF 425 AND UNIFIL ARE THREE-FOLD: TO GAIN WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM LEBANON; TO MAINTAIN SECURITY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON; AND TO RE-ESTABLISH LEBANESE GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.

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CONTRIBUTORS WITH THEM (OR APPROACHING THOSE TROOP CONTRIBUTORS SEPARATELY, WHICHEVER IN YOUR JUDGMENT WOULD BE BEST). YOU SHOULD REVIEW OUR THINKING AS CONTAINED IN FOREGOING PARAGRAPHS AND OUR PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION. YOU SHOULD URGE PARALLEL EFFORTS ON THE PART OF OTHERS. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT WE WILL BE PREPARED TO COORDINATE OUR APPROACHES IF THAT IS WHAT THEY PREFER. FURTHER, YOU MIGHT SUGGEST THAT THOSE GOVERNMENTS WHICH FEEL IN A POSITION TO DO SO MAKE PRESENTATIONS TO IRAQ AND LIBYA.

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BY UN POLICE CONTINGENTS, AND ELEMENTS OF LEBANON'S ARMED FORCES, EVEN IF ONLY IN COMPANY STRENGTH. VANCE
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 09 May 1978
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Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: ASSAULTS ON UN FORCES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON
TAGS: PDIP, PORG, LE, IS, XF, UNSC, UNIFIL
To: BEIRUT CAIRO MULTIPLE
Type: TE
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